



SPANISH RIFLEMEN FIRING ON WOUNDED UNDER THE RED CROSS.

Drawn by William Bengough, Journal Artist with the Fifth Army Corps.

On either side of the road along which the battle of Santiago was fought is a dense growth of trees and underbrush. Throughout the whole distance from the front to headquarters (about five miles) a constant fire was kept up by hidden Spaniards on the long line of wounded who were struggling on to the hospitals. The red cross was no protection, and the drawing shows one of the Red Cross nurses being shot through the lungs while helping to carry a wounded man.

General Garcia has a strong, swarthy face, with a deep bullet scar in his forehead. In a general way he is not unlike a Cuban edition of General Miles.

General Wheeler, with grizzled beard, small of stature and in a brown campaign uniform, faced the three officers mentioned, while about them sat the aides-de-camp of the four generals.

Hobson and Sampson Were Present.

Assistant Naval Constructor Hobson, the hero of the Merrimac, who had come to headquarters with messages from Rear-Admiral Sampson, was also present.

The situation was discussed with the aid of a profusion of maps, and at the conclusion of the conference, luncheon was served. It consisted of beans, hard tack and coffee. After this meal General Miles, General Shafter and General Garcia, with their staffs, rode off to inspect the position on the right flank.

They all agreed that General Toral was securely wedged in, and that escape was impossible. But, owing to delays and the possible incidental loss of life which was certain to result from an attempt to carry the town by assault, the danger to our troops from fever and disease and, above all, the fact that the Spanish fleet was destroyed, which has been the real object of the campaign, it seemed to be the general disposition to allow General Toral to evacuate Santiago.

This would give us a military and naval base, permit the starving refugees to return to their homes, and would allow the immediate embarkation of the bulk of our army for the Porto Rico campaign.

Two of General Randolph's batteries reached the front to-day, and were posted in the center of General Layton's Division, on the extreme right, where they can command the town beyond our lines and cover the churches, hospitals and other public buildings flying the Red Cross flag at the eastern edge of the city.

The plans of the generals are not to allow our troops to enter the city, except a garrison of immunes, proof against the yellow fever, which will remain here.

Until ready for embarkation on the transports at the city's piers, our men will be camped on the heights surrounding Santiago, where the water is good. Strict instructions have been issued to the soldiers to boil their drinking water, but owing to the poverty of their equipment this is almost impossible.

In Some Regiments One-third Are Ill.

The rainy weather has accelerated the spread of malarial and other fevers. In some of the regiments over a third of the men are unfit for duty.

General Chaffee, in addition to General Duffield, is suffering from fever.

"I am a little tired," said General Garcia; "we have had a hard struggle," and his worn jean suit and muddy top boots, with a single antiquated brass spur on the right one, showed this.

The enemy entrenched himself in Santiago in very good shape," he continued, "because, naturally, the place is one of the best in the world for that purpose."

"Could the troops outside of the city, or at other points, have made junction with them at any time?" was asked.

"Decidedly not," said General Garcia. "Pando was completely cut off. See there," and he pointed to the tracing cloth map before him with a finger trembling with excited energy.

Garcia Says Pando Is No Good.

"Pando, who amounts to nothing as a general, anyway" (this with a hoarse laugh of defiance), "was at Manzanillo with nearly 4,000 troops. That is the point at which the river Cauto empties into the sea. On its ravines toward Santiago we had men who held him back."

"But the elements did even more. He could not come over the hills during the rainy season, which is now on in the interior even worse than on the seacoast. The coast was his only hope, and there he would have to brave the fire of your ships. Behind him he had yellow fever in its worst shape."

"Where else in Eastern Cuba are the Spanish troops?"

"Back at Holguin, on the north coast," said General Garcia, once more pointing to the map. "Between them and Santiago is an almost impassable range of mountains. In the passes are machetes and Cubans, and, thanks to the United States, there are now rifles and ammunition. General Luque has 10,000 troops at Holguin, but they are being reduced in number very rapidly."

"The records show that the deaths in the Spanish army in Cuba have been close to 30,000 a year. There will be double that number this year, to say nothing of the loss caused by the arrival of the American troops and the war."

"I mean that from yellow fever and the insurgent warfare their numbers have already been reduced very greatly. Death stares them in the face and they know it."

"I would not be surprised to see one-half of them lay down their arms and join us at the first opportunity. The disaffection is particularly strong among the home guards, and but for the presence of the imported soldiery they would come out of the cities and surrender now. The United States navy has done a wonderful work."

NEARLY READY TO STRIKE PORTO RICO.

Washington, July 14.—The next conquest is to be Porto Rico. Immediately after the news of the surrender at Santiago the War Department at once began its preparations for the invasion of that island. From now on everything is to be pushed to the greatest extent to make the expedition a speedy success.

Eleven transports are now ready and waiting to be loaded. Those which conveyed troops from Tampa to Santiago will all soon be once more at American ports. Several of them have already arrived. Others

are on their way, and the remainder will come as quickly as steam can bring them.

The outbreak of yellow fever has modified General Miles's original plans. He intended to make Santiago the chief base of operations from which to descend upon Porto Rico. His purpose was to take from Santiago nearly all the regulars and substitute for them volunteers, of whom 90,000 are at the eastern points of concentration, and nearly all of them ready for duty in the field. General Coppinger has at Tampa 18,000, 40,000 are at Chickamauga under General Brooke, 6,000 are at Miami, 11,000 are at Jacksonville under General Lee, and the remaining 15,000 are at Camp Alger.

To Take a Strong Force of Regulars.

General Miles will take from Santiago all the regulars free from infection. His purpose was revealed when he prohibited the troops on the transports reaching there yesterday from landing. Four thousand more are on the way, and they will be kept on the transports and not be permitted to come in contact with the camp at Santiago. While it is thought that the yellow fever at Santiago can be prevented from spreading by the establishment of isolation hospitals 700 feet above the sea level on the hills, General Miles will not be able to take from Santiago the number of regulars he expected, as the strict quarantine regulations to be enforced will interfere with an immediate movement of troops from that point.

There will be no delay, however, with the Porto Rican movement. The nucleus of the expedition can consist of the entire, Fifth, Ninth and Eleventh regiments of regular infantry now at Tampa and various detachments of regular artillery and cavalry. These troops will probably be the first to sail and the first to land after the marines have cleared a way.

Regiments Which May Go.

Much pressure is being brought to send the following regiments as part of the expedition: Second New York, Fifth Maryland, Third Pennsylvania, One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Indiana, First and Fifth Ohio, First Florida, Thirty-second Michigan, Sixty-ninth New York and Second Georgia. The First Ohio Cavalry has left Chickamauga on its way to Tampa, and will undoubtedly be used in the invasion of Porto Rico.

Among the other troops likely to go is the division under the command of General Wilson. The First Brigade of the division, under the command of Colonel Ernst, is made up of the Second and Third Wisconsin and the Sixteenth Pennsylvania. The Second Brigade is composed of the Fourth Ohio, Third Illinois and the Fourth Pennsylvania. The Third Brigade consists of the First and Third Kentucky and the Fifth Illinois.

General Wilson is anxious to go to the front and is now at Charleston under orders. His instructions were confidential and it was found necessary to amend them this afternoon. It had been planned to send him to Santiago, but he is likely to sail direct to Porto Rico.